



Interreg
Slovakia-Austria
European Regional Development Fund



Annual Implementation Report 2022

of the

COOPERATION PROGRAMME
INTERREG V-A SLOVAK REPUBLIC - AUSTRIA



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1. IDENTIFICATION OF THE ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

CCI	2014TC16RFCB003
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2. OVERVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION

The Annual Report 2022 of the Interreg V-A Slovakia-Austria Cross-border Cooperation Programme has been prepared pursuant to Annex X of Commission implementing regulation (EU) 2015/207. The report is intended to give an overview of the activities that were undertaken in the frame of the implementation process, focusing on the year 2022.

During the course of the implementation of the Programme, 8 rounds within 4 Calls for proposals (hereinafter referred to as “CfP”) covering the complete budget of the Programme for Priority axes (hereinafter referred to as “PA”) 1, 2, 3 and 4, i.e. EUR 71,339,118 from ERDF have been closed and evaluated since the launch of the CfP in December 2016, with 78 project proposals submitted. At the end of 2022, the Programme announced the 9th round for CfP for PA 1, with one project application submitted by the end of the year. The project application will be subject to assessment after the round’s closure on 25th January 2023.

As for the CfP for the Technical Assistance (PA 5), which was launched in June 2017, the 3rd assessment round was announced at the end of 2022 with the round’s closure on 25th January 2023.

As of the end of the reporting period, 55 projects (49 without projects of Technical Assistance) have been approved by the Monitoring Committee (hereinafter referred to as “MC”) under the Programme in the total amount of EUR 82.03 mn from ERDF, which represents 108.08 % of the Programme allocation. 53 projects (47 without projects of Technical Assistance) were contracted in the amount of EUR 79.12 mn from ERDF, which represents 104.25 % of the programme allocation. Disbursement rate has reached EUR 49.15 mn from ERDF, i. e. 64.76 % of the programme allocation. All the implemented measures throughout the previous years of Programme implementation have led, among others, to successful fulfilment of the N+3 rule for 2021.

Besides 1 MC meeting, Programme bodies had 14 Task Force (TF) meetings, out of which 9 were held in the “Programming group” format (TF members + external experts), as well as numerous technical meetings with the relevant stakeholders (including representatives of MA, RB’s, JS, national, regional authorities, EC and relevant Ministries) related to preparation of the 2021-2027 Programme. In order to support the effective implementation of projects, the MA and the JS also organized numerous consultations and technical meetings with the beneficiaries.

Publicity



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Regarding the information and publicity activities, 16 newsletters were sent out to the subscribed readers in 2022. The MA/JS continuously informed the target groups about the stages of the implementation, provided useful information, downloadable documents, and project news via the Programme website and through Facebook. In addition, "Keep" database with project information has been regularly updated.

As for the Annual Event, the Programme took the opportunity to be part of the Lower Austrian Regional Exhibition, which was held from 26.03.2022 to 13.11.2022 in the premises of the Marchegg Castle, and to present its results. Posters and videos dedicated to the Programme and the 12 successful projects could be viewed free of charge by visitors at the entrance to the exhibition.

On the occasion of the European Cooperation Day, an online competition for primary and secondary school students called "Become a reporter in the border region" was organised. Its aim was to bring the Programme and its results closer to younger generations. The competition entries were related to the topic of the competition (Get to know the projects of the border region and their benefits for people) and depicted/described cross-border cooperation projects implemented within the framework of the Interreg V-A SK-AT Programme.

Audits

In the reporting year, 4 audits were carried out on the Programme, 1 system audit on the level of the MA, JS and national controller (22-012), 1 audit of operations on the Slovak side (22-013), 1 audit of operations on the Austrian side (22-023) and audit of assurance package (management declaration and annual summary) (22-014).

The system audit of the MA/JS/national controller (22-012) was conducted by the Government Audit Office. In total, the system audit identified 12 findings, out of which 3 findings were at the level of the MA/JS and 9 findings were at the level of MA/national controller. There were no findings with the financial impact and 4 findings were systemic (verification of list of declared expenditure inadequately performed, incorrect application of data from ARACHNE, non-compliance with the processes set in the Management System of the European Structural and Investment Funds (Management System) by the national controller and failure to incorporate a change resulting from an update of the Management System by the MA, public procurement verification inadequately performed). No ineligible expenditures were detected.

Audits of operations on the Slovak side identified 7 findings in total. 4 findings had the financial impact (FLC SK level) and were related to the administrative financial control of the public procurement or verification of list of declared expenditures and 1 non-systemic on MA/JS level (incorrect procedure for irregularity settlement - applying incorrect sum). Ineligible expenditures were related to projects „Alpen Karpaten Fluss Korridor Alpsko-karpatský riečny koridor“ and „3E Morava Nature“. The MA adopted effective measures to avoid the occurrence of findings identified by both audits in the future.

The audit of operation on the Austrian side was conducted by the audit firm BDO, spol s.r.o. 8 findings at the level of 3 beneficiaries (out of 5 beneficiaries) were identified during the audit of operations on the Austrian side. 2 findings were related to the project DREAM SK-AT, 1 was financial one - ineligible expenditures in the total amount of 958, 86 EUR total costs (deficiencies in the process of public procurement). 5 findings were related to the project VYSOMARCH, 4 financial ones – ineligible expenditures in the total amount of 22 673, 70 EUR total costs (deficiencies in the process of public



procurement). 1 finding of non-financial nature was related to the project Ecoregion SKAT, in projects RoboCoop and ProDaM, no findings were identified. Effective measures were taken to avoid the occurrence of findings identified by the audit on the Austrian side in the future.

No findings were identified during the audit of assurance package (management declaration and annual summary).

In the reporting year, no evaluation activities have been carried out. Although according to the updated Evaluation plan (approved by the MC at its 6th meeting in October 2018) second stage of the evaluation (ex-post evaluation) was scheduled to be initiated in 2021, due to numerous project changes resulting in significant project prolongations, the launch of the second stage of the evaluation has been postponed and is now expected by the end of 2023. The MA will prepare updated Evaluation plan for the MC approval during 2023.

Reimbursement of funds

Disbursement

Disbursement on national level

Cumulative expenditures approved by the Certifying Authority (hereinafter referred to as "CA") as of 31st December 2022 amounted to EUR 52,679,494.33, out of which EUR 41 664 017.45 from ERDF. In 2022, expenditures in the amount of EUR 14,486,176.06 were approved, out of which EUR 11,359,266.73 from ERDF.

As of 31st December 2022, the disbursement after deducting irregularities and recoveries from ERDF amounted to EUR 49,150,888.90, which represents 64.76 % proportion of ERDF of the total programme allocation (EUR 75,892,681.00).

Progress in disbursement in comparison to 31st December 2021 represents an increase by EUR 12,496,247.78 from ERDF, i.e. the increase by 16.47 percentage points.

Disbursement towards the EC

As of 31st December 2022, the CA declared expenditures in the total amount of EUR 45,653,007.71 from ERDF, which amounts to 60.15 % of the programme allocation, out of which in 2022, the CA declared expenditures in the amount of EUR 11,327,267.73. The N+3 rule was successfully achieved by 31st December 2022.

The declared amount after taking into account the Accounts in the sum of EUR 45,537,876.29 amounted to 60,00 % proportion of disbursement of the total programme allocation.

Financial flows towards the EC

In 2022, the CA received payments on its account for Interreg V-A SK-AT from the EC in the total amount of EUR 11,044,460.10 from ERDF, out of which:



- EUR 1,233,762.17 represents the annual advance payment for the year 2022 in the amount of EUR 1,517,853.62, which was offset against the balance of Accounts for the 7th Accounting year (EUR - 284,091.45);

- EUR 9,810,697.93 represents 90 % of the reimbursement of interim payment applications approved by the EC and 77% of the reimbursement of final interim payment application toward the EC (additional payment up to 90 % in the amount of EUR 383,843.02 to be paid in 2023).

Cumulative payments of EUR 50,526,915.17 were received from the EC within the programme.

Interests

Due to the change of the interest rate from 0.01% p. a. to 0.00% p. a. on current accounts established in the State Treasury (effective from 1st January 2022), the amount of interest for the year 2022 for the Interreg V-A SK-AT programme is zero. The cumulative amount of generated interest as of 31st December 2022 remains at EUR 2,565.41.

Certification of expenditures and of Management and Control Systems

In 2022, no certification verifications were carried out within Interreg V-A SK-AT.

Irregularities and financial corrections

In the reporting period from 1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022, the CA permanently deducted irregularities and recoveries within Interreg V-A SK-AT payment requests to the EC and to Accounts in the total amount of EUR 322,824.35 for all sources of funding (out of which EUR 133,998.97 from ERDF). Within Interreg V-A SK-AT, no expenditures were temporarily excluded by the CA in the reporting period.

Table: Overview of the amounts deducted at the level of the Priority Axis

Priority Axis	Amounts permanently deducted		Amounts temporarily excluded from Accounts according to Art. 137 (2) CPR					
			Amounts temporarily excluded		Amounts re-declared towards EC		Balance of amounts temporarily excluded	
	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution	Total Amount (w/o Pro-rata)	ERDF Contribution
305010	90,691.55	0.08	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
305020	196,747.60	103,921.47	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
305040	35,385.20	30,077.42	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total	322,824.35	133,998.97	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

Source: CA, MF SR



Implementation Process and Measures taken

After a rather sluggish start of the Programme (with reasons explained in previous AIRs), MA together with Programme partners continued to follow the measures adopted in 2018 and in the following years (see AIR 2018). These measures were further developed and consistently applied also in 2022 (see chapter 5 in this AIR), which resulted in a steady progress in Programme implementation and successful achievement of Programme’s targets and commitments (e.g. N+3 rule for 2022).

3. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRIORITY AXIS

3.1 Overview of the implementation

ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA 1	Contributing to a smart cross-border-region	<p>Open call for proposal (hereinafter referred to as “CfP”) was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 19,683,142 from ERDF (25.9 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 1b)¹. The corresponding specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the collaboration of key actors in the regional innovation system in order to enhance knowledge transfer, capacity building and the establishment of common frameworks, common research and innovation activities and joint research facilities. ▪ Improve the capacity of the cross-border educational system to provide human resources knowledge and skills demanded by the regional innovation system. <p>Until the end of the reporting period, 8 assessment rounds of CfP were concluded. Overall, EUR 19.95 mn from ERDF (101.39 % of the allocation) was allocated to 13 projects selected by the MC, out of which all 13 projects were contracted by 31st December 2022.</p> <p>At the end of 2022, 9th assessment round was opened within this PA, with 1 project application submitted by the end of the year.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 2 projects were successfully completed with the total spending of EUR 1.83 mn from ERDF.</p>

¹ In accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA 2	Fostering natural and cultural heritage and biodiversity	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 27,820,000 from ERDF (36.7 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on the Investment Priorities 6c) and 6d)². The corresponding specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen common approaches to valorise the natural and cultural heritage in a sustainable way in order to further develop the programme area as an attractive tourism destination. ▪ Strengthen the cross-border integration of functional ecological networks and green infrastructures in order to preserve biodiversity and to contribute to the stability of ecosystems. <p>Until the end of the reporting period, 8 assessment rounds of CfP were concluded. Overall, EUR 31.13 mn from ERDF (111.93 % of the allocation) was allocated to 21 projects selected by the MC, out of which 20 projects were contracted.</p> <p>In 2022, no more assessment round followed.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 4 projects were successfully completed with the total spending of EUR 3.56 mn from ERDF.</p>
PA 3	Supporting sustainable transport solutions	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 9,655,000 from ERDF (12.7 % of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 7c)³. The corresponding specific objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improve joint planning, coordination and practical solutions for an environmentally friendly, low-carbon and safer transport network and services in the programme area. <p>Until the end of the reporting period, 8 assessment rounds of CfP were concluded. Overall, EUR 8.09 mn from ERDF (83.88 % of the allocation) was allocated to 2 projects selected by the MC, out of which 2 projects were contracted.</p> <p>In 2022, no more assessment round followed.</p>

² In accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5

³ in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



ID	Priority axis	Key information on the implementation of the priority axis with reference to key developments, significant problems and steps taken to address these problems
PA 4	Strengthening cross-border governance and institutional cooperation	<p>Open call for proposal was launched on 9th December 2016 with the total amount of EUR 14,180,976 from ERDF (18.7 % out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The Priority Axis rests on Investment Priority 11⁴. The corresponding specific objectives are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Strengthen the institutional cooperation in the cross-border area through mobilizing stakeholders and building the capacities for planning and acting in the framework of multi-level governance. ▪ Strengthen the links between institutions providing pre-primary and primary education (kindergartens and primary schools) to jointly develop and implement educational programmes. <p>Until the end of the reporting period, 8 assessment rounds of CfP were concluded. Overall, EUR 15.51 mn from ERDF (109.42 % of the allocation) was allocated to 13 projects selected by the MC, out of which 12 projects were contracted.</p> <p>In 2022, no more assessment round followed.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 4 projects were successfully completed with the total spending of EUR 4.45 mn from ERDF.</p>
PA 5	Technical assistance	<p>The call for proposal was launched on 21st June 2017 with the total amount of EUR 4,553,560 from ERDF (6% out of the total programme allocation).</p> <p>The corresponding specific objective is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Ensure the efficient and smooth implementation of the cooperation programme. <p>Until the end of the reporting period, 2 assessment rounds of CfP were concluded. Overall, EUR 4.41 mn from ERDF (96.77 % of the allocation) was allocated to 6 projects selected by the MC, out of which all 6 projects were contracted.</p> <p>At the end of 2022, 3rd assessment round was opened within this PA.</p> <p>By the end of 2022, 1 project was completed with the total spending of EUR 0.45 mn from ERDF.</p>

⁴ in accordance with the Regulation (EU) 1301/2013, Article 5



3.2 Common and programme specific indicators

Tab 1: Result indicators (by priority axis and specific objective)

Priority Axis	Specific objective	ID	Indicators	Unit	Baseline value	Baseline year	Target value (2023)	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Observations
PA1	1.1	R1.1	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen the regional innovation system	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.8	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.6		2.5			In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	1.2	R1.2	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to improve higher education and lifelong learning	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.5	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)						2.2		2.1		
PA2	2.1	R2.1	Monthly average of cyclists and pedestrians at the counting point "Freiheitsbrücke" (Morava/March)	persons	15,066	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					21,020		13,732			In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	2.2	R2.2	Number of major bottlenecks along the Alpine-Carpathian Corridor which interrupt the wildlife corridor	number	12	2014	9 (reduction by 25%)								N/A		
PA3	3.1	R3.1	Capacity in public cross-border transport on an average work day	Total capacity in person	30,700	2014	31,314					38,280		31,340			In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
PA4	4.1	R4.1	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen institutional capacities	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.9	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.2		2			In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.
	4.2	R4.2	Intensity of cooperation of key actors in the programme area in order to strengthen the cooperation between educational institutions	Ordinal scale, min 1, max 7	2.3	2014	Increasing (qualitative target)					2.0		2.1			In accordance with the Cooperation Programme Interreg V-A SK-AT, the data shall be reported in 2018, 2020 and 2023.



Tab. 2: Common and programme specific output indicators (by priority axis, investment priority)⁵

Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
PA1	*F	1b.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in research & innovation related collaboration activities (P)	number	25		0	0	0	2	4	11	24	34*	Value for completed projects: 16 Value for partially implemented projects: 18 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											7	16	27	
	*F	1b.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation (P)	number	5		0	0	0	0.1 ⁶	0.2	7.6	11.6	12.6	Value for completed projects: 11 Value for partially implemented projects: 1.60 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											15	22	28	
	F	1b.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes related to research & innovation (P)	number	125		0	0	0	5	117	552	780	963	Value for completed projects: 361 Value for partially implemented projects: 602 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											445	500	500	
	*F	1b.1.4	No of research facilities developed (P)	number	1		0	0	0	0.1	2.2	4.5	4.5	4.5	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 4.5 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											6	6	6	
*F	1b.1.5	No of new researchers in supported entities (EU)	number in FTE	20		0	0	0	1	4	2	2	2	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2	
*S											2	32	32		

⁵ All data were obtained on the basis of the recalculation in ITMS2014+ from 4th May 2023 with the status as of 31st December 2022.

⁶ Value from approved Monitoring report represents a partially developed product.



*F	1b.1.6	No of research institutions participating in cross-border projects (EU)	number of organisations	6		0	0	0	0	0	0	7	9	Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 6 The target value has been already achieved.**
											*S	0	7	
*F	1b.2.1	No of jointly developed major products & services related to higher education and lifelong learning (P)	number	4		0	0	0	0	1	1	2	6	Value for completed projects: 1 Value for partially implemented projects: 5 The target value has been already achieved.**
											*S	2	14	
*F	1b.2.2	No of institutions directly involved in cooperation aiming at better quality of higher education and lifelong learning (P)	number	20		0	0	0	0	11	13	15	30	Value for completed projects: 2 Value for partially implemented projects: 28 The target value has been already achieved.**
											*S	14	53	
*F	1b.2.3	Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU)	persons	500		0	0	0	0	856	1,862	3,644	6,955	Value for completed projects: 2,188 Value for partially implemented projects: 4,767 The target value has been already achieved.**
											*S	4,050	5,120	

* Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in research & innovation related collaboration activities and a higher number of participants participated in joint training schemes related to research & innovation than expected at the time of contracting.

** Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation, a lower number of participants in joint training schemes related to research & innovation, a lower number of research institutions participating in cross-border projects, a lower number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU) as well as a lower number of research facilities was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
PA2	*F	6c.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in cultural & natural heritage development (P)	number	80		0	0	0	12	20	36	40	47	Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 44
	*S											46	46	63	
	*F	6c.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to cultural & natural heritage development (P)	number	50		0	0	0	2	7	11	15	77	Value for completed projects: 17 Value for partially implemented projects: 60 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											97	97	126	
	*F	6c.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	400		0	0	0	0	881	961	1,327	5,292	Value for completed projects: 951 Value for partially implemented projects: 4,341 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											3,855	3,855	3,945	
	*F	6c.1.4	Increase in expected number of visits at supported sites of cultural or natural heritage and attraction (EU)	number	32,000		0	0	0	0	3,150	6,115	6,657	25,337	Value for completed projects: 24,115 Value for partially implemented projects: 1,222
	*S											20,699	20,699	179,899	
	F	6d.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in the development of green infrastructures (P)	number	34		0	0	0	0	11	40	42	42	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 42 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											36	38	63	
*F	6d.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures (P)	number	25		0	0	0	8	13	24	33	44	Value for completed projects: 16 Value for partially implemented projects: 28 The target value has been already achieved.**	
*S											58	60	63		
F	6d.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	194		0	0	0	83	3,800	6,722	11,453	13,904	Value for completed projects: 2,136 Value for partially implemented projects: 11,768 The target value has been already achieved.**	



	*S											10,460	10,510	10,550		
	*F	6d.1.4	Surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (EU)	hectares	1,000		0	0	0	1.50	72.5	35,609	39,732	54,732		Value for completed projects: 15,134 Value for partially implemented projects: 39,598.42 The target value has been already achieved.**
	*S											40,947	41,119	41,119		
												.42	.42	.70		

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in the development of green infrastructures and a higher number of participants participated in joint training schemes than expected at the time of contracting.

**Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of participants in joint training schemes, a lower number of organisations/entities participating in the development of green infrastructures, a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures, and a lower surface area of habitats supported to attain a better conservation status (EU) was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA3	*F	7c.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in the development of environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems (P)	persons	23		0	0	0	0	0	0	2	2		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 2
	*S											0	2	9		
	*F	7c.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to environment-friendly and low-carbon transport systems (P)	number	12		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 3
	*S											0	2	12		
	*F	7c.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	175		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 7
	*S											0	0	77		



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	
PA4	*F	11.1.1	No of organisations/entities participating in institutional cooperation (P)	number	80		0	0	0	23	152	172	214	265*	
	*S											61	128	128	
	*F	11.1.2	No of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools (P)	number	8		0	0	0	0	3.5	3.8	8.8	16.9	
	*S											18	31	31	
	*F	11.1.3	No of participants in joint training schemes (P)	number	200		0	0	0	0	938	1,396	2,122	2,457	
	*S											2,457	2,507	2,507	
	*F	11.2.1	No of jointly developed major products & services related to pre-primary and primary education (P)	number	5		0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4	
	*S											4	4	6	
	*F	11.2.2	No of educational institutions directly involved in cooperation at pre-primary and primary level of education (P)	number	25		0	0	0	97	116	116	116	239	
	*S											116	116	239	
*F	11.2.3	Number of participants in joint education and training schemes to support youth employment, educational opportunities and higher and vocational education across borders (EU)	number	625		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0		
*S											0	0	0		

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of organisations/entities participated in institutional cooperation than expected at the time of contracting.



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**Due to increased projects' performance and/or interest for implementation of projects within the Specific Objective, the actual achievement of outputs (F) and/or the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S) is higher than the target value, i. e. a lower number of organisations/entities participating in institutional cooperation, a lower number of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools, a lower number of participants in joint training schemes and a lower number of educational institutions directly involved in cooperation at pre-primary and primary level of education was expected to be delivered at the beginning of the programme period.



Priority Axis	ID	Indicator (name of indicator)	Measurement unit	Target value (2023)	CUMULATIVE VALUE										Observations (if necessary)	
					2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023		
PA5	*F	5.1.1	No of projects committed and successfully closed (P)	number	53		0	0	0	0	1	2	3	9		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 9
	*S											53	53	53		
	*F	5.1.2	Number of major publicity events (P)	number	8 (1 per year in the period 2015-2022)		0	0	1	5	7	10	10	12		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 12 The target value has been already achieved.
	*S											12	13	13		
	*F	5.1.3	Number of compulsory information events for beneficiaries at project start (P)	number	10 (2 per year in the period 2015-2019)		0	0	1	5	9	13	17	20		Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 20 The target value has been already achieved.
	*S											17	17	17		
	F	5.1.4	Number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA (EU)	number in FTE	18		0	0	9.7	12.9	14.035	16.167	16.775	17.942		Value for exceptionally completed projects: 4.400 Value for partially implemented projects: 13.542
	*S											14.450	14.450	14.450		

*Due to increased projects' performance, the actual achievement of outputs (F) is higher than the achievement of outputs to be implemented through selected projects (S), i. e. a higher number of employees (FTEs) whose salaries are co-financed by TA (EU) was delivered than expected at the time of contracting.

*F = Aggregate (cumulative) value - outputs realized through projects [actual achievement of outputs]

*S = Aggregate (cumulative) value - outputs to be implemented through selected projects [forecasts provided by beneficiaries]

Data source: ITMS2014+

3.3. Milestones and targets defined in the performance framework⁷

Tab. 3: Information on the milestones and targets defined in the performance framework

PA	ID	Indicator Type	Indicator or key implementation step	Measurement unit	Milestone for 2018	Final target 2023	Actual status in 2022	Observations
PA1	F0001	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 1	EUR	3,010,363	23,156,638	14,797,044.79	Value for completed projects: 2,192,045.21 Value is for partially implemented projects: 12,604,999.58
	K1	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (1b)	number	4	9	13	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 4 Value for partially implemented projects: 9
	1b.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to research & innovation	number	0	5	12.6	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 11.0 Value for partially implemented projects: 1.6
PA2	F0002	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 2	EUR	4,254,824	34,560,093	15,895,462.56	Value for completed projects: 4,194,093.91 Value for partially implemented projects: 11,701,368.65
	K2.1	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (6c)	number	6	12	12	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 9
	6c.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to cultural & natural heritage development (6c)	number	0	50	77	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 17 Value for partially implemented projects: 60
	K2.2	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (6d)	number	4	8	8	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 2 Value for partially implemented projects: 6
	6d.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to ecological networks and green infrastructures (6d)	number	0	25	44	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 16 Value for partially implemented projects: 28
PA3	F0003	Financial Indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 3	EUR	764,559	9,528,143	4,425,252.79	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 4,425,252.79
	K3	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (7c)	number	3	2	2	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 1 Value for partially implemented projects: 1
	7c.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to environment friendly and low carbon transport systems (7c)	number	0	12	3	Value for completed projects: 0 Value for partially implemented projects: 3
PA4	F0004	Financial indicator	Total expenditure certified to EC for Priority axis 4	EUR	2,168,856	16,683,505	8,535,207.20	Value for completed projects: 5,233,484.58 Value for partially implemented projects: 3,301,722.62
	K4	Key implementation step	No of contracted projects (11)	number	4	13	12	Value for completed projects: 3 Value for partially implemented projects: 9
	11.1.2	Output indicator	No of jointly developed major products & services related to institutional cooperation, integrated frameworks and planning tools	number	0	8	16.9	The milestone for 2023 has already been achieved. Value for completed projects: 6 Value for partially implemented projects: 10.9

Data source: ITMS2014+

⁷ Submitted in Annual Implementation Reports from 2017 onwards



3.4. Financial data

Tab 4.: Financial information at priority axis and programme level

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.
The financial allocation of the priority axis based on the Cooperation programme						Cumulative data on the financial progress of the Cooperation programme					
Priority axis	Fund	Category of region	Basis for the calculation of Union support* (Total eligible cost or public eligible cost)	Total funding (EUR)	Co-financing rate (%)	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Proportion of the total allocation covered with selected operations (%) [column 7/ column 5 × 100]	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR) ERDF	Total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Proportion of the total allocation covered by eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries (%) [column 10/ column 5 × 100]	Number of operations selected ⁸
PA1	ERDF		Total eligible cost	23,156,638.00	85	26,715,531.32	115.37	26,486,943.58	17,668,426.46	76.30	13
PA2	ERDF		Total eligible cost	34,560,093.00	85	38,357,465.11	110.99	38,010,404.02	17,030,474.25	49.28	20
PA3	ERDF		Total eligible cost	9,528,143.00	85	9,528,142.24	100.00	9,501,414.34	4,425,252.79	46.44	2
PA4	ERDF		Total eligible cost	16,683,505.00	85	18,254,902.69	109.42	17,902,152.58	9,756,293.63	58.48	12
PA5	ERDF		Total eligible cost	5,357,130.00	85	5,440,923.80	101.56	5,440,923.80	4,232,170.97	79.00	6
Total				89,285,509.00		98,296,965.16	110.09	97,341,838.32	53,112,618.10	59.49	53

Data source: ITMS2014 +

⁸ Number of contracted projects

Tab. 5: Breakdown of the cumulative financial data by category of intervention for the transmission made by 31 January

Categorisation dimensions											Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.	
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected	
PA1	EDRF	58 Research and innovation infrastructure (public)	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	1		24	AT127	4,757,336.84	4,757,336.84	3,965,564.68	1	
									AT130	2,896,175.86	2,896,175.86	2,414,160.08	1	
									SK010	2,894,573.68	2,894,573.68	2,412,824.55	1	
									SK021	2,963,201.26	2,963,201.26	2,470,030.32	1	
		60 Research and innovation activities in public research centres and centres of competence including networking				1		13	AT112	90,468.96	90,468.96	24,564.60	1	
									AT122	84,308.25	84,308.25	22,891.81	1	
									AT124	99,558.96	99,558.96	27,032.77	1	
									SK010	110,554.96	110,554.96	30,018.46	1	
						19		SK021	99,247.64	99,247.64	26,948.23	1		
								AT112	90,468.96	90,468.96	24,564.60	1		
								AT122	84,308.25	84,308.25	22,891.81	1		
								AT124	99,558.96	99,558.96	27,032.77	1		
						20		AT130	199,503.85	199,503.85	9,570.21	1		
								SK010	310,540.35	310,540.35	39,611.76	2		
								SK021	99,247.64	99,247.64	26,948.23	1		
								AT121	161,289.24	161,289.24	28,218.59	1		
		24				AT125		161,289.24	161,289.24	28,218.59	1			
						AT126		161,289.24	161,289.24	28,218.59	1			
						AT127		161,289.24	161,289.24	28,218.59	1			
						AT130		797,037.63	797,037.63	346,575.09	3			
		11				SK010		852,428.04	852,428.04	356,204.85	3			
						SK021		436,244.54	436,244.54	308,786.29	1			
						AT111		106,455.24	106,455.24	40,177.58	1			
						AT112		196,924.20	196,924.20	64,742.18	2			
		1				AT121		106,455.24	106,455.24	40,177.58	1			
						AT122		190,763.50	190,763.50	63,069.39	2			
						AT124		99,558.96	99,558.96	27,032.77	1			
						SK010		253,485.89	253,485.89	83,962.42	2			
1	SK021	202,595.45	202,595.45	65,953.03	2									
	AT111	404,388.10	403,063.99	337,775.33	1									
	AT112	404,388.09	403,063.98	337,775.33	1									
	AT127	404,388.09	403,063.98	337,775.33	1									
1	SK010	404,388.09	403,063.98	337,775.33	1									
	SK021	404,388.09	403,063.98	337,775.33	1									
	AT130	135,738.54	133,741.05	66,559.30	1									
1	SK010	138,839.36	136,796.24	68,079.79	1									
	AT130	135,738.54	133,741.05	66,559.30	1									
1	SK010	138,839.36	136,796.24	68,079.79	1									
	AT130	135,738.54	133,741.05	66,559.30	1									



	workforce, and promoting flexible learning pathways including through career guidance and validation of acquired competences					24	SK010	138,839.36	136,796.24	68,079.79	1	
	118 Improving the labour market relevance of education and training systems, facilitating the transition from education to work, and strengthening vocational education and training systems and their quality, including through mechanisms for skills anticipation, adaptation of curricula and the establishment and development of work-based learning systems, including dual learning systems and apprenticeship schemes				1	19	AT112	398,130.54	380,917.03	115,316.95	1	
							AT127	322,238.60	308,306.34	93,335.15	1	
								AT130	1,697,449.12	1,646,431.17	1,106,541.67	4
								SK010	1,754,120.54	1,703,330.00	1,156,423.01	4
								SK021	426,350.22	407,916.61	123,490.67	1

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA2	ERDF	85 Protection and enhancement of biodiversity, nature protection and green infrastructure	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	6		18	AT125	292,334.49	292,334.49	43,750.43	1
									AT126	397,238.24	397,238.24	43,750.43	2
									SK010	377,186.43	377,186.43	42,449.40	2
									SK021	419,201.09	419,201.09	62,737.13	1
								22	AT111	364,598.90	356,361.58	134,312.29	1
									AT112	293,864.06	287,224.84	108,254.73	1
									AT122	342,352.68	339,041.41	243,786.38	1
									AT125	654,473.56	649,282.93	530,131.07	1
									AT126	2,845,364.83	2,782,404.39	1,426,184.92	5
									AT127	587,590.95	581,887.48	434,591.57	2
									AT130	1,851,705.43	1,791,813.51	1,484,138.53	4
									SK010	4,359,279.82	4,282,618.95	2,369,191.95	7
		18				SK021		1,510,661.21	1,493,698.75	1,063,669.28	4		
						AT126		104,903.75	104,903.75	0	1		
		19				SK010		93,545.25	93,545.25	0	1		
						AT112		31,112.01	31,112.01	25,442.05	1		
						AT127		31,112.01	31,112.01	25,442.05	1		
						SK010		31,112.01	31,112.01	25,442.05	1		
						SK021		31,112.01	31,112.01	25,442.05	1		
		24				SK023		49,779.22	49,779.22	40,707.28	1		
AT112	31,112.01		31,112.01	25,442.05	1								
AT127	31,112.01		31,112.01	25,442.05	1								
SK010	31,112.01		31,112.01	25,442.05	1								
SK021	31,112.01		31,112.01	25,442.05	1								
15	SK023	49,779.22	49,779.22	40,707.28	1								
	AT112	725,080.31	725,080.31	723,541.28	1								
18	SK010	816,024.61	815,771.30	726,269.02	2								
	AT126	104,903.75	104,903.75	0	1								
22	SK010	93,545.25	93,545.25	0	1								
	AT126	1,145,987.09	1,143,237.73	125,262.65	1								
		91 Development and promotion of the tourism potential of natural areas				6			SK010	1,431,376.21	1,427,942.17	156,457.24	1



Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA3	ERDF	36 Multimodal transport	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	7		18	AT126	3,087,333.33	3,087,333.27	2,310,619.41	1
									SK010	2,825,466.67	2,825,466.67	2,114,633.38	1
								22	AT111	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT112	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT121	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT122	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT123	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT124	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT125	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT126	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT127	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
									AT130	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1
								SK010	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1	
SK021	301,278.52	299,051.20	0	1									

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA4	ERDF	115 Reducing and preventing early school leaving and promoting equal access to good quality early childhood, primary and secondary education including formal, non-formal and informal pathways for reintegrating into education and training	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable	11		19	AT112	1,106,599.72	1,080,259.07	600,890.78	2
									AT126	1,112,062.67	1,085,599.26	601,562.93	2
									AT127	1,112,062.67	1,085,599.26	601,562.93	2
									AT130	1,161,380.17	1,133,808.56	607,630.81	2
									SK010	1,192,020.60	1,163,760.47	611,400.72	2
									SK021	1,115,468.61	1,088,928.67	601,981.99	2
		18						AT111	248,579.79	247,752.98	120,619.98	3	
								AT112	553,163.44	552,336.63	139,536.16	5	
								AT122	192,278.37	191,451.57	49,611.22	3	
								AT123	194,766.48	194,766.48	47,986.24	2	
								AT125	448,834.89	448,834.89	158,725.08	3	
								AT126	411,233.65	411,233.65	117,181.89	3	
								AT127	411,233.65	411,233.65	117,181.89	3	
								AT130	928,165.42	927,338.62	569,945.01	4	
								AT212	111,090.70	111,090.70	61,781.10	1	
								SK010	1,417,251.66	1,416,424.78	1,416,424.78	7	
		19						SK021	465,046.95	464,220.15	189,815.63	4	
								AT111	104,161.89	103,335.08	40,304.54	2	
								AT112	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2	
								AT122	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2	
								AT130	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2	
								SK010	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2	
		21						SK021	104,161.89	103,335.08	20,227.07	2	
								AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
								AT112	183,864.56	183,037.76	138,613.78	2	
								AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
AT126	168,556.75		168,556.75	126,871.09	1								
AT127	168,556.75		168,556.75	126,871.09	1								
AT130	15,307.81		14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
SK010	183,864.56		183,037.76	138,613.78	2								
24	SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
	AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
									AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1

120 Capacity building for stakeholders delivering education, lifelong learning, training and employment and social policies, including through sectorial and territorial pacts to mobilize for reform at national, regional and local level							AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
							AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
							SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
							SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1	
							18	AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
							19	AT111	66,709.41	64,984.74	24,641.20	2
								AT112	399,751.16	384,320.80	272,243.35	3
								AT113	89,935.14	88,364.17	22,567.95	1
								AT121	333,041.75	319,336.06	247,602.16	1
								AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT123	477,089.45	457,455.75	354,695.40	1
								AT124	333,041.75	319,336.06	247,602.16	1
								AT126	333,041.75	319,336.06	247,602.16	1
								AT127	333,041.75	319,336.06	247,602.16	1
								AT130	74,516.73	72,655.68	26,600.33	2
								SK010	796,794.37	765,295.05	561,801.22	3
								SK021	348,349.56	333,817.07	561,801.22	2
							21	AT111	66,709.41	64,984.74	24,641.20	2
								AT112	66,709.42	64,984.74	24,641.20	2
								AT113	89,935.14	88,364.17	22,567.95	1
								AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT130	74,516.73	72,655.68	26,600.33	2
								SK010	78,133.53	76,209.30	27,507.92	2
							24	SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
								AT111	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1
AT112	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
AT122	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
AT130	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
SK010	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								
SK021	15,307.81	14,481.01	11,742.69	1								

Categorisation dimensions										Financial data			
1.	2.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.	9.	10.	11.	12.	13.	14.	15.
Priority axis	Fund	1 Intervention field	2 Form of finance	3 Territorial dimension	4 Territorial delivery mechanism	5 Thematic objective dimension ERDF/Cohesion Fund	6 ESF secondary theme	7 Economic dimension	8 Location dimension	Total eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	Public eligible cost of operations selected for support (EUR)	The total eligible expenditure declared by beneficiaries to the managing authority	Number of operations selected
PA5	ERDF	121 Preparation, implementation, monitoring, inspection	01 – Non-repayable grant	07 – Not applicable	07 – Not applicable			18	AT111	357,772.54	357,772.58	284,866.04	5
									AT112	357,772.54	357,772.54	284,866.02	5
									AT121	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT122	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT123	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT124	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT125	87,499.90	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT126	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT127	87,499.86	87,499.86	51,788.74	2
									AT130	404,166.54	404,166.54	281,298.25	5
									SK010	276,818.10	276,818.10	167,855.23	4
		SK021						276,816.50	276,816.50	208,398.25	4		
		122 Evaluation and studies						18	AT111	235,150.09	235,149.97	193,392.50	3
									AT112	235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3
									AT121	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT122	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT123	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT124	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT125	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT126	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT127	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
									AT130	235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3
									SK010	235,149.97	235,150.09	193,392.50	3
		SK021						235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3		
		123 Information and communication						18	AT111	316,106.01	316,106.01	269,860.27	4
									AT112	316,106.01	316,106.01	269,860.27	4
									AT121	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1
AT122	45,833.33		45,833.33	36,782.99	1								
AT123	45,833.33		45,833.33	36,782.99	1								
AT124	45,833.33		45,833.33	36,782.99	1								
AT125	45,833.33		45,833.33	36,782.99	1								
AT126	45,833.33		45,833.33	36,782.99	1								
AT127	45,833.33	45,833.33	36,782.99	1									
AT130	235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3									



									SK010	235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3
									SK021	235,149.97	235,149.97	193,392.50	3

Data source: SFC2014



Tab. 6: Cumulative cost of all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area

1	2	3	4	5
	The amount of ERDF support ⁹ envisaged to be used for all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area based on selected operations (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 2/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)	Eligible expenditure of ERDF support incurred in all or part of an operation implemented outside the Union part of the programme area declared by the beneficiary to the managing authority (EUR)	Share of the total financial allocation to all or part of an operation located outside the Union part of the programme area (%) (column 4/total amount allocated to the support from the ERDF at programme level *100)
All or part of an operation outside the Union part of the programme area	0	0	0	0

Data source: ITMS2014 +

⁹ ERDF support is fixed in the Commission decision on the respective cooperation programme.



4. SYNTHESIS OF THE EVALUATIONS

Updated Evaluation plan approved by the MC at its 6th meeting in October 2018 foresees an evaluation in two phases:

- 1st phase (2018-2019): focus on three main tasks: a) revisiting the programme strategy; b) investigating options to reduce the administrative burden and c) evaluating and illustrating key impacts of the programme. If possible, at this stage, the evaluation will seek to build a bridge to the strategic objectives of the forthcoming period 2021-2027.

According to the updated Evaluation plan, evaluation activities were initiated in 2019. In terms of time range, the evaluation covered progress from the beginning of the programming period, i.e. 1st January 2014 till 31st December 2019 (cut-off date).¹⁰

- 2nd phase (2021-2022): focus on programme impacts and achievements towards specific objectives. In the second stage, it is intended to assess the achievements also from a broader perspective, i.e. from the perspective of the strategic EU objectives.

According to the above-mentioned updated Evaluation plan, the 2nd phase of the evaluation was foreseen to start in 2021. However, due to numerous project changes resulting in significant project prolongations as well as due to other issues affecting programme performance, the launch of the second stage of the evaluation was postponed and is expected by the end of 2023.

5. ISSUES AFFECTING THE PERFORMANCE OF THE PROGRAMME AND MEASURES TAKEN

5. a) Issues and measures taken

In 2022, MA together with Programme partners continued to follow the measures adopted in 2018 and further developed in the following years in order to ensure the smooth implementation of the Programme. In fact, in 2022 the Programme was already in a phase where most projects were either in full implementation or before completion. In this sense, the emphasis of Managing Authority with the involvement of all management bodies was laid mostly on securing smooth implementation process, and especially on disbursement of funds.

However, the COVID-19 pandemic situation had still a significant impact on the implementation of the Programme. Furthermore, rising costs on construction markets, disruption of supply chains and increasing rate of overall inflation posed another challenge for beneficiaries and Programme authorities. A negative effect on the overall implementation of projects was evident in numerous project change requests in terms of rescheduling of activities and revision of budgets, as well as in the submission of expenditures and payment requests for verification. It was therefore necessary to proceed with further transitional measures addressing the existing challenges on both Programme and project level.

¹⁰ A summary of results and recommendations is available in AIR 2020. For more detailed information see also the final Mid-term evaluation report.



The following measures were applied in 2022 to secure the smooth implementation of the Programme:

1. Taking steps for fulfilment of N+3 rule for 2022

- Application of 100 % co-financing rate from the ERDF for the accounting year from 1.7.2021 to 30.6.2022;
- Increasing frequency of ad hoc consultations for beneficiaries in online format, per telephone or in person on a daily basis;
- Interactive communication with applicants and beneficiaries on a daily basis;
- Ongoing monitoring of status of Programme's implementation on a weekly basis;
- Providing specific assistance to Austrian applicants with ITMS2014+;
- Providing active support for beneficiaries during the project's implementation (mainly with submission of expenditures and payment requests).

2. Implementing measures to improve the efficiency of the implementation and to accelerate the disbursement of funds:

- At the FLC level:
 - Shortening of periods for verification of lists of expenditures from 90 days to shorter periods (currently approximately 60 days on SK side);
 - Providing a possibility to submit expenditures below the set threshold of EUR 10 000;
 - Active communication with beneficiaries on a daily basis and providing support with submission and completion of necessary documentation.
- At the JS level:
 - Enhanced communication with the beneficiaries aimed at timely and correct submission of list of expenditures and payment requests;
 - Active communication with beneficiaries on a daily basis with the aim to increase the number of submitted lists of expenditures and payment requests;
 - Providing active assistance to beneficiaries with submission of expenditures;
 - Providing active support with uploading of relevant documentation into ITSM2014+;
 - Providing specific assistance to Austrian beneficiaries with ITMS2014+;
 - Accelerating the processes on each stage of project cycle – e. g. through prompt issuance of decisions, swift contracting of projects from 8th round, improved communication with beneficiaries, fast management of submitted change requests;
 - Shortening of periods for processing the payment requests;
 - Monitoring of the FLC and JS performance with the aim to achieve internal financial targets.
- At the MA level:
 - Adoption of the (interim) over-contracting for Slovak beneficiaries;
 - Increasing the ERDF co-financing for projects approved with lowered ERDF intensity;



- Revision of programme documentation, e. g. Manual for Beneficiaries, Eligibility rules;
- Monitoring of the status of submitted and processed lists of expenditures and payment requests on a daily basis;
- Active communication with beneficiaries with the aim to increase the number of submitted lists of expenditures and payment requests;
- Uploading documents into ITMS2014+ together with beneficiaries in order to facilitate and accelerate the process of submission and approval;
- Issuing instructions and guidance for ITMS2014+;

3. Ensuring the fulfilment of programme indicators:

- Maximizing the overall performance of the Programme and its impact in the programme area through achieving the full use of funds allocated for the Programme and securing the fulfilment of programme indicators through approval and implementation of good projects;
- Active communication with applicants, regional partners and other partners within the programme;
- Continuation of intensive communication with beneficiaries with the aim to accelerate the process of submission of expenditures, minimise errors on the beneficiary side and secure the submission of payment requests according to agreed schedules;
- Ongoing monitoring of status of Programme's implementation on a weekly basis (or shorter if necessary).

In addition, pursuant to the Decree of the Government of the Slovak Republic of 29th August 2019, the Programme was put under "crisis management" (according to Slovak national legislation) due to non-satisfactory results achieved in 2018, which resulted in closer monitoring from the Central Coordination Body (CCB). The Government decree bound the MA to provide from September 2019 on regular weekly reports per PA's (contracting and disbursement status) and monthly reports on progress in Programme implementation and fulfilment of goals. The closer monitoring and reporting continued also in 2022 and shall continue until the "crisis management" is revoked.

All the above-mentioned measures implemented and further developed since 2018 have led, among others, to the successful fulfilment of N+3 rule for 2022 (in relation to the financial commitment for 2019), by certifying and declaring expenditure of EUR 45.65 mn to the EC from ERDF.

5. b) Assessment whether progress is sufficient

Building on significant progress in Programme implementation in 2018, during the reporting year, MA together with programme partners continued to use its best efforts to ensure the smooth and steady implementation of the Programme.

However, it must be stated that the Programme still carries its legacy of the past that resulted in the delayed implementation. On the one hand, the commitment rate of the Programme shows, also due to over-contracting, very satisfactory results – 103.66 % of the Programme allocation; on the other hand, the disbursement rate of 64.76 % remains still rather low (however, as compared to the disbursement rate of



39.80 % in 2021, the progress is tangible). The main reasons for the delays within the Programme are explained in previous AIR's. From the information and data mentioned above it is evident that there was significant effort made to ensure progress in Programme implementation.

6. CITIZEN'S SUMMARY

See annex to this report.

7. REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Not relevant.

8. PROGRESS IN PREPARATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF MAJOR PROJECTS AND JOINT ACTION PLANS

8.1. Major projects

Not relevant.

8.2. Joint action plans

Not relevant.